

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 13, 17, and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kimura (U.S. 6,605,869). Claims 14-16, 18-19, and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura. Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Chung et al. (U.S. 6,525,406). Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Tao et al. (U.S. 6,191,360).

It is noted that the reference to Kimura was initially cited by the Examiner in the outstanding Final Office Action. Thus, this Amendment represents Applicant's initial opportunity to respond to the rejections based upon this reference.

Drawings

It is noted that the Examiner has accepted the proposed drawing filed January 6, 2005.

Claim Amendments

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 13 and 21 of this application. It is believed that the amended claims specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, and define subject matter that is patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art, taken individually or in combination.

The primary reference to Kimura teaches semiconductor device having a wire type semiconductor element (16), in Fig. 4, having a sealing resin (26) covering the wire bondings (24) located on either side of a semiconductor chip (23).

Kimura does not teach the two extensions being spaced apart from the plurality of contact pads; the molding compound has at least one step located on a surface opposite the substrate; the molding compound has at least one indentation located on a surface opposite the substrate; nor does Kimura teach the substrate has a molding gate metal layer.

It is axiomatic in U.S. patent law that, in order for a reference to anticipate a claimed structure, it must clearly disclose each and every feature of the claimed

structure. Applicant submits that it is abundantly clear, as discussed above, that Kimura do not disclose each and every feature of Applicant's new claims and, therefore, could not possibly anticipate these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Absent a specific showing of these features, Kimura cannot be said to anticipate any of Applicant's new claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The secondary reference to Chung et al. teaches a semiconductor device and is cited for teaching an indentation (48) formed in an upper edge of an encapsulation material (24).

Chung et al. do not teach a molding compound having two extensions; the molding compound having at least one recession located between the two extensions; the two extensions being spaced apart from the plurality of contact pads; the distance between the at least one recession and the closest contact pad is greater than 1.0mm; the at least one recession has an arc shape; the at least one recession has a shape of a quarter of a circle; the at least one recession of the molding compound includes two recessions; the molding compound has an U-shape; nor do Chung et al. teach the molding compound has an L-shape.

The secondary reference to Tao et al. teaches a thermally enhanced BGA package and is cited for teaching a substrate (30) having a pad (32) connected to a heat spreader.

Tao et al. do not teach a molding compound having two extensions; the molding compound having at least one recession located between the two extensions; the two extensions being spaced apart from the plurality of contact pads; the distance between the at least one recession and the closest contact pad is greater than 1.0mm; the at least one recession has an arc shape; the at least one recession has a shape of a quarter of a circle; the at least one recession of the molding compound includes two recessions; the molding compound has an U-shape; nor do Tao et al. teach the molding compound has an L-shape.

Even if the teachings of Kimura, Chung et al., and Tao et al. were combined, as suggested by the Examiner, the resultant combination does not suggest: the two extensions being spaced apart from the plurality of contact pads.

It is a basic principle of U.S. patent law that it is improper to arbitrarily pick and choose prior art patents and combine selected portions of the selected patents

on the basis of Applicant's disclosure to create a hypothetical combination which allegedly renders a claim obvious, unless there is some direction in the selected prior art patents to combine the selected teachings in a manner so as to negate the patentability of the claimed subject matter. This principle was enunciated over 40 years ago by the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals in In re Rothermel and Waddell, 125 USPQ 328 (CCPA 1960) wherein the court stated, at page 331:

The examiner and the board in rejecting the appealed claims did so by what appears to us to be a piecemeal reconstruction of the prior art patents in the light of appellants' disclosure. ... It is easy now to attribute to this prior art the knowledge which was first made available by appellants and then to assume that it would have been obvious to one having the ordinary skill in the art to make these suggested reconstructions. While such a reconstruction of the art may be an alluring way to rationalize a rejection of the claims, it is not the type of rejection which the statute authorizes.

The same conclusion was later reached by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Orthopedic Equipment Company Inc. v. United States, 217 USPQ 193 (Fed.Cir. 1983). In that decision, the court stated, at page 199:

As has been previously explained, the available art shows each of the elements of the claims in suit. Armed with this information, would it then be non-obvious to this person of ordinary skill in the art to coordinate these elements in the same manner as the claims in suit? The difficulty which attaches to all honest attempts to answer this question can be attributed to the strong temptation to rely on hindsight while undertaking this evaluation. It is wrong to use the patent in suit as a guide through the maze of prior art references, combining the right references in the right way so as to achieve the result of the claims in suit. Monday morning quarterbacking is quite improper when resolving the question of non-obviousness in a court of law.

In In re Geiger, 2 USPQ2d, 1276 (Fed.Cir. 1987) the court stated, at page 1278:

We agree with appellant that the PTO has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching suggestion or incentive supporting the combination.

Applicant submits that there is not the slightest suggestion in either Kimura, Chung et al., or Tao et al. that their respective teachings may be combined as suggested by the Examiner. Case law is clear that, absent any such teaching or suggestion in the prior art, such a combination cannot be made under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Neither Kimura, Chung et al., nor Tao et al. disclose, or suggest a modification of their specifically disclosed structures that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at Applicant's claimed structure. Applicant hereby respectfully submits that no combination of the cited prior art renders obvious Applicant's amended claims.

Summary

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner not be of the opinion that this case is in condition for allowance, it is requested that this amendment be entered for the purposes of appeal, since it represents Applicant's initial opportunity to respond to the rejections based Kimura.

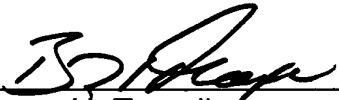
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Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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